



All Hands HERALD

July 2006

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

***Massachusetts
Firefighting Academy***

Public Education

CPSC Recalls

***Information
Technology***

***Code Compliance
& Enforcement***

Fire Investigation Unit

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About the *All Hands Herald*

The *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the *All Hands Herald*, contact Jennifer Mieth at 978-567- 3381 or Donna Nelson at 978-567-3149. Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us or Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us

Sue Peltier and Barry Hyvarinen are the talented contributing photographers; Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦

From the Fire Marshal



Mitretek Systems and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's prestigious J. F. Kennedy School, selected the Statewide Mass Decontamination System program as one of five finalists, out of 90 nominees, for the prestigious Mitretek Innovations Award in Homeland Security. Being a semi-finalist for this award is quite an honor for our agency's Hazardous Materials Response Program, the Mass. Department of Public Health and the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts. I would like to recognize the many years of hard work by HazMat Director David Ladd, DPH Assistant Commissioner Nancy Ridley and Concord Fire Chief Ken Willette to develop and deploy the innovative Statewide Mass Decontamination System.

New Secretary of Public Safety

I would like to welcome Secretary Robert Haas in his new role replacing Secretary Edward Flynn who is now the Commissioner of Police in Springfield. As Undersecretary at the

Executive Office of Public Safety, Mr. Haas had direct oversight for the Department of Fire Services. He understands and has been supportive of our mission and our efforts to carry it out.

DFS Facilities Project

Progress is being made in the DFS Facilities Project design phase. Shortly, if not by the time this is published, we will have the final design for a project that will greatly change the footprint of our Stow complex. Once that is in place, we may even see some of the infrastructure work begin this year, and the first phase of actual construction begin next year.

Seamless Implementation of 'Nicole's Law'

This spring, implementation of the new law requiring carbon monoxide alarms consumed the attention of the Department of Fire Services and most local fire departments as well. There was great public awareness of the law and the March 31 deadline, which made this achievement fairly seamless. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has turned its attention to larger structures where people live – either full or part-time.

RIP Cigarette Legislation

The newly formed Massachusetts Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes held a press conference on May 2 to urge the House of Representatives to complete the work started by the Senate and pass fire-safe cigarette legislation here in Massachusetts. Since that press conference, similar bills have been sent to the Governor's desks in New Hampshire and Illinois. Fire-safe cigarettes are

Reformulated Gasoline – E10

On April 7, 2006, State Fire Marshal Coan sent a memorandum to fire chiefs on reformulated gasoline. The current gasoline additive MTBE is being phased out in Massachusetts and elsewhere in New England. The MTBE additive is being replaced with ethanol.

After the conversion, gasoline will contain 10% ethanol (E10). This should not be confused with motor fuel containing 85% ethanol (E85). The E85 fuel was the subject of a recent email advisory from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

In preparation for the conversion, most underground storage tank owners are having their tanks cleaned. This cleaning process is conducted

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SIMulation Trailer: Teaching Command and Control on the Road

One of the most critical elements in determining success or failure during a real emergency is command and control. DFS will bridge the gap between classroom training and live fire exercises by offering incident command training in the new "SIM" Simulation Trailer.

DFS has recently completed physical construction and delivery of a Mobile Command Simulation Trailer. The fifty-three foot tractor-trailer is suitable for over-the-road towing and will be converted into a mobile classroom environment. The classroom can be configured into twenty workstations or tables with twenty-four seats for different scenarios as needed. It will also contain equipment control and operations space. The trailer will be a self-sufficient unit with mobile power, HVAC and lighting components.

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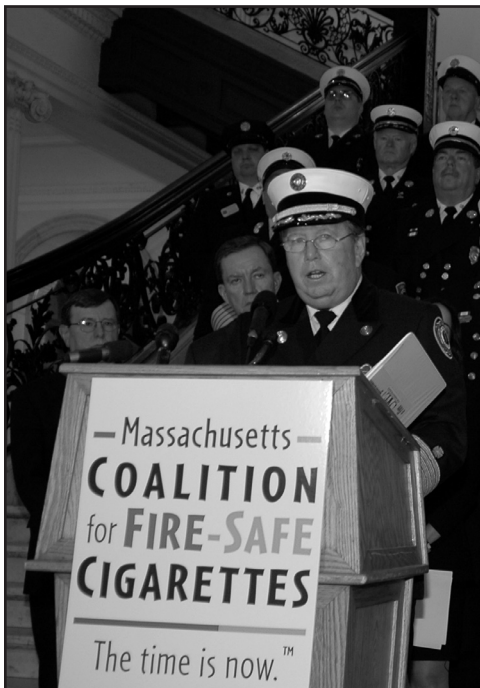
Continued on Page 10

already the law in New York, California, and Vermont. The coalition is a group working for years to pass this legislation in Massachusetts. Smoking continues to be the leading cause of fire deaths nationally and here at home. Congressman Moakley, was outraged when six members of the Kearney family died in a cigarette-caused fire in his district. He first filed national RIP (resistant ignition propensity or fire-safe) cigarette legislation in 1979 and died still fighting for a national law to regulate the ignition propensity of cigarettes. This legislation is long overdue in Massachusetts.

Fireworks Safety

The DFS Staff, the public education unit, the code compliance unit and the State Police in the Hazardous Devices Unit, are working to help make sure the public has a safe and happy 4th of July holiday. Please feel free to contact them for any assistance. The use of fireworks by anyone except licensed professionals in Massachusetts is illegal.

We want the public to have a safe 4th of July holiday and leave the fireworks to the professionals. ♦



Chiefs, Coan, legislators join NFPA President Jim Shannon at press conference - Photo by NFPA Staff

DFS Staff Serving in Different Uniforms

By Donna Nelson with assistance from Christine Juda

Life is anything but routine for several DFS staff members currently serving their country overseas and stateside.

David Brouillette, a Dracut Fire Department captain, is serving with the U.S. Army National Guard and is on his second tour of duty in the Middle East. Capt. Brouillette was previously deployed to Kuwait in 2004 where he was responsible for security plans and operations on five bases. Currently, he is the team leader for a Military Transition Team (three men). The team is responsible for training and conducting combat operations with a company of Iraqi Security Force soldiers. This past April, David was part of a television news story on Iraq by CBS Evening News with Laura Logan.

Frank McGinn is a Mass. State Police sergeant and the South Team Leader for the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section who has been assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for over seven years. He is a brigade commander in the Mass. Army National Guard and assumed command of the 79th Troop Command based in Rehoboth on April 1, 2006 after his December 2005 return from Iraq. Sgt. McGinn is responsible for all personnel, logistics, and training for over 1,400 soldiers, including ensuring the readiness of units under his command in the event of mobilization for deployment, or when needed for any state response.

Sgt. McGinn was deployed to Iraq in November 2004 with the 42nd Infantry Division. He started as the

deputy commander of a former Iraqi air base re-named Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher, located about seven miles outside of Tikrit proper. The base includes an area of about 18 miles in circumference with two airstrips, three fire stations and about 347 buildings. He



Cpt. David Brouillette (L) in Iraq

became the garrison commander for FOB Speicher in April, and then was promoted to colonel in June. He was primarily responsible for Base Defense and Life Support for over 10,000 soldiers and civilian contractors. His duties included: base defense to protect it from attack or incursion; providing lodging, both permanent and transient; power generation; water and sewerage capabilities; morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) programs; and real estate management.

James (McGruff) Hunt is a firefighter, EMT and instructor associated with the Southwick Fire Department who is on active duty with the U.S. Air Force - Air Combat Command. He's an A-10 Warthog fighter pilot assigned to combat, search and rescue, and served as a Forward Air Controller, Battalion Air Liaison Officer and 4-Ship Flight Lead. He was a DFS contract support and appa-

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tus operator from 1995 - 2000, before entering the Air Force in 2000. After being stateside from 2000-2004, he was deployed to Afghanistan in April 2004, returning home in August that year. He was primarily responsible for providing close air

tions officer and an air marshal. With that expertise, we had an easy time with the L&O [law and order] mission. The other way it came in handy was the ability to remain calm when we were under indirect fire (rocket) attack...My fire investigation experi-

ence came in handy when we had fires on the base. I did two fire investigations with Fire Chief Scot Rose. I provided Scot with the Basic Fire Investigation



Paul Jacques in front of a fire department vehicle

support to United States, Coalition and Afghani troops as well as integrated support to Special Operations Forces. Since October 2004, he has been on active duty, assigned to Barnes ANGB in Westfield, MA.

When asked if their DFS experiences and training helped to prepare them for their tours of duty, all three answered with positive responses.

"Working with recruits gave me patience to deal with the language and cultural differences while training the Iraqi soldiers," said Capt. Bouillette. "Operating under dangerous conditions with the fire service has helped me to accomplish my mission in spite of many obstacles."

"My State Police training came in handy in two ways," said Sgt. McGinn, "I had responsibility for the law enforcement on the base and did not have any Military Police assigned... My staff had two troopers, a deputy sheriff from Buffalo, NY, a correc-

tion course for his firefighters. Scot worked with my Safety Office and developed a great fire prevention and inspection system that would probably mirror something you'd see in a town back in the states."

"The fire service as a whole, and the DFS in particular, indoctrinated me into the military mindset," commented Pilot Hunt. "It made the transition a lot easier. Also, the fire service has taught me to improvise. That has REALLY come in handy...especially at a forward operating location."

In summarizing his experience, Capt. Bouillette said, "Rewarding. It is an experience that no news media can convey. I have been thanked by the Iraqi's for liberating them from Saddam Hussein. I am honored to be a part of history, rebuilding the Iraqi army."

"Overall, I had a great experience," Sgt. McGinn concurred. "I was able to serve my country in a time of war

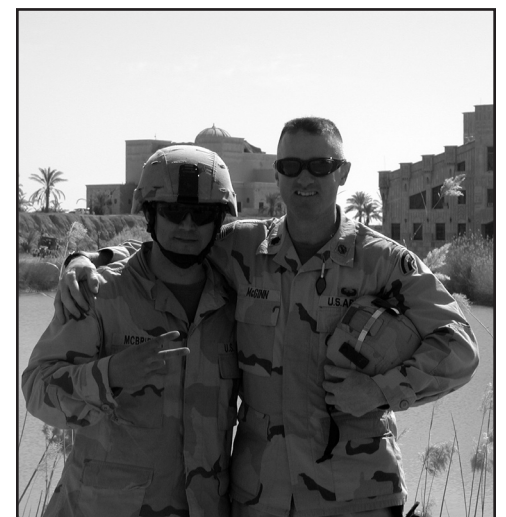
and challenge myself in a demanding environment. The amount of responsibility I had in overseeing tens of millions of dollars in construction efforts, equipment and other purchases was exciting and invigorating."

Pilot Hunt also had a positive experience. "Contrary to the media, Afghanistan was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. We worked closely providing air support in conjunction with Marine aviation," said Pilot Hunt. "I had numerous opportunities to put my A-10 training to use and scoring a little payback for September 11, 2001. I had the strong impression that the Afghans liked the security, stability, and booming economy."

All three have encouraging words of advice for those in the process of deploying, or waiting for deployment.

"Fall back on your training, always focus on your mission's end result, adapt, stay alert," advised Capt. Bouillette. "Take care of your buddies even if they are Iraqi, and they will take care of you."

"My words of advice to those deploying," continued Sgt. McGinn, "is simply be prepared for your deployment both physically and mentally, get your affairs in order so you leave



Sgt. Frank McGinn (rt) in front of the Tikrit Palace Complex

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Fire Investigation Unit

THE BOMB SQUAD

Reprinted with permission from the March 2006 issue of Trooper magazine

In 1975 Commissioner of Public Safety John F. Kehoe Jr. authorized the formation of a new squad within the state force. From among the ranks, two highly motivated troopers

were chosen and tasked with the daunting job of diffusing and disposing of bombs in Massachusetts. Trooper William F. Cronin Jr. (53rd RTT) and Corporal Charles



Tpr. Brian Moran inspects a package

E. Heightman (44th RTT) was the first MSP trooper to graduate from Hazardous Devices School (HDS) in Huntsville, Alabama. Their main objective was to deal with a growing climate of fear born from a rising tide of regional bombing incidents in the 1970s. These early bomb technicians and those that soon followed would have their mettle tested by such groups as the "Ohio 7" and the Melville Jackson unit. The latter gang chose 1976 to display their penitentiary-learned skills. According to Major Cronin (ret.), ten sticks of dynamite with a wind up alarm clock taped to the top was their calling card. Between June and July of that year four of these "devices" were placed around the Commonwealth in such places as the National Guard Armory in Dorchester, an airplane at Logan Airport, the Lowell Superior Court House and even in front of the old Topsfield barracks. The list of tools they employed included 150 feet of rope, coveralls, construction hard hats, wire cutter, a lot of tape and even more courage.

This original squad of uniformed troopers operated primarily out of Logan Airport while several civilian bomb technicians covered the rest of the entire state [in the Office of the State Fire Marshal]. As the number of incidents and calls for service steadily increased statewide, so too did the need for reliable, professional and increased numbers of uniformed troopers to man this squad.

To that end, in 1997 four troopers and one sergeant were selected from the rank and file to branch off from the Logan team and form a much needed statewide bomb squad. This squad would operate under the direction of State Fire Marshal. This important relationship with the Department of Fire Services continues to this day as the 37 troopers assigned to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section will attest. These troopers of the new statewide bomb squad were extremely motivated but had only slightly more equipment than the founding members used some 22 years prior. This, however, would soon improve. Later that first year an in-depth study by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Connecticut State Police paved the way for a much-needed federal Byrne grant. This infusion of funding and equipment was accompanied by a steady complement of HDS trained troopers. As the bomb squad grew, so too did their responsibilities. First and foremost was the need to train both the public and themselves. The squad began educating the public on explosives awareness and scene protocol. Corporations, public safety dispatchers fire and police

recruit classes would constitute the bulk of a steady target audience that continues to grow. The bomb technician's general knowledge and field of expertise would also need to grow.

In the Commonwealth today there is, on average, one device every seven to ten days which the bomb squad must confront. The troopers assigned to both the statewide squad and the Logan Airport squad are trained to deal with these explosive devices, as well as a multitude of other threats. In addition to all being certified post-blast investigators, each MSP bomb technician must be certified to operate in a hazardous materials environment. These certifications are merely a prerequisite to being accepted to the U.S. Army Ordinance Munitions and Electronics School located on the



(L to R) DLT Foley, Tpr.s Moran w/ EK-9 Adam, Fahey w/ EK-9 M.C. Gahagen w/ EK-9 Jackie, Qualls w/ EK-9 Hali, & McCarthy

Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. The rigorous six-week school tests the mental and physical capabilities of all who attend. Courses such as electronic circuitry fusing systems, conventional and military explosives demolition procedures, hand entry of items, personal protective equipment-ray and x-ray interpretation are taught. Today's bomb technician

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is tasked with learning even more than this. Graduates of hazardous devices school (HDS) are required to be proficient in percussion activated non-electric (PAN) disruption, remote entry, rigging, recognition and render safe procedures for improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and a more ominous subject of CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives weapons). The statewide squad is the primary agency for any CBRNE dispersal mechanisms found in the state. In addition to being the mandated custodians and disposal agents of all illegal fireworks seized in the Commonwealth the statewide bomb squad also provides other services such as underwater explosive removal, explosive breaching for tactical teams and expert testimony in state and federal court cases.

One of the best tools the MSP bomb squads use today is the robot. The statewide squad employs four robots for calls across the state. Whether remotely removing a suspect device, firing a PAN shot or assisting a tactical entry team, the robot is quite simply the best option for the bomb technician. The dexterity of its claws, the multiple camera angles, and the fact that no lives are put at risk, elevate the robot to an absolute necessity.

Bomb technicians are gluttons for punishment. In addition to the above-required courses of study certain technicians agree to take on more. As presently constituted, your statewide bomb squad has six troopers with explosive detection K-9, or bomb dogs. The most motivated of all bomb technicians, the EK-9 bomb technician voluntarily agrees to an additional eight weeks of training. The statewide EK-9's are all certified through the Connecticut State Police as food reward dogs. This means that every day, seven days a week, weekends, holidays and vacations, the technician must train the dog. From the time they are certified to the time they retire, the statewide EK-9 will eat only from

its owner's hand. As all K-9 handlers know, this is labor intensive but it is a labor of love and produces an excellent product. The EK-9's are one of our best detection tools. They are widely employed at Logan and around the state in a variety of assignments



MSP bomb robot

such as dignitary protection, airport terminals, Gillette stadium security, and LNG Boston Harbor deliveries and the State House.

The international climate along with such troubling domestic events as Columbine in 1997, September 11, 2001, and large events such as the DNC in 2004 and the yearly July 4th celebrations in Boston keep an already busy bomb squad even busier. Since its inception over nine years ago, the statewide bomb squad has averaged over 600 calls per year (chart below). Under the leadership of Detective Lieutenant Martin Foley, Sergeants Bob Bachelder and Gerry Galizio, the statewide bomb squad had already logged 260 calls for service by the close of May 2006. Along the way the MSP bomb squads have forged strong and very necessary working relationships with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (training and tech support), the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy (military ordinance), the Drug Enforcement Agency (clandestine labs), the Mass. Department of Public Health (white powder calls), State Labs (reactive chemicals) and

the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) as well as other bomb squads from local departments (Boston, MBTA, Springfield and Cambridge).

Statewide MSP Bomb Squad Yearly Calls for Service

- 1998-629
- 1999-770 (Columbine)
- 2000-505
- 2001-747 (9/11 white powder calls)
- 2002-661
- 2003-546
- 2004-444 (DNC)
- 2005-545
- 2006-260 (through May.)

Throughout the nation improvised explosive devices are increasingly being used as instruments of property destruction and murder. Sadly, the Commonwealth is not immune to these crimes. Bomb squads around the nation have lost bomb technicians to murder (Boston PD) and suffered serious injuries in the line of duty. The work that is done by all the bomb squads in this nation stands as a testament to the sacrifices made by these dedicated professionals.

Through our own experiences and those of other teams, the MSP bomb squads have learned to treat each and every situation as a potential for serious injury. The bomb squad is eager and willing to teach this awareness to any member or unit in the MSP, to any business, police department, fire department or group of citizens that resides in your patrol area.

"No threat the bomb squad responds to is taken for granted. It doesn't have to be on a subway in Boston or in London. It could be in our own backyard," said DLt. Foley unit commander HDU/FEIU. ♦

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: www.cpsc.gov

AIR COMPRESSORS

4/11/06 06-136

Mini 2-Gallon Pancake Air Compressors

Tap Enterprises, Inc.

An undersized power cord can overheat & pose a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06136.html>

BACKPACK BLOWERS

4/25/06 06-146

Shindaiwa Backpack Blowers

Shindaiwa

The muffler support bracket can break allowing hot exhaust gases to escape & the possibility of melting the fuel tank or igniting grease, oil or debris around the fuel tank posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06146.html>

4/25/06 06-147

Redmax Gas-Powered Backpack Blowers

Komatsu Zenoah America

The muffler support bracket can break allowing hot exhaust gases to escape & the possibility of melting the fuel tank or igniting grease, oil or debris around the fuel tank posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06147.html>

BATTERIES

3/28/06 06-120

Pelican Power Brick Battery Charger

Electro Source LLC

Battery charger's circuit board can overheat & cause its plastic cover to melt which poses a fire & burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06120.html>

4/6/06 06-134

Rechargeable Battery Packs

ClearOne Communications

The battery packs can short circuit, causing them to overheat & melt the protective plastic covering posing a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06134.html>

4/13/06 06-139

Battery Packs sold with Disney® - Brand Personal DVD Players

McNair Technology Co. Ltd.

The battery packs sold with these DVD players can overheat & possibly burst when recharging, posing a burn risk.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06139.html>

4/20/06 06-145

HP & Compaq Notebook Computer Batteries

Hewlett-Packard Co.

An internal failure can cause the battery to overheat & melt or char the plastic case posing a burn & fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06145.html>

5/10/06 06-161

Ibanez Basses

Hoshino USA Inc. & Chesbro Music Co.

If the battery is improperly installed the bass can overheat causing internal damage & a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06161.html>

CAMERA

3/14/06 06-112

Olympus-Brand 35mm Film Cameras

Olympus America Inc.

A defect with the flash circuit can cause it to smoke & overheat when the camera is turned on posing a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06112.html>

CANDLES

3/1/06 06-101

Harvest Brand Tea Light Candles

Big Lots Stores, Inc.

The candles can burn with a high flame &

melt the plastic holders posing a fire & burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06101.html>

4/18/06 06-142

Egg-Shaped Candle Holders

Nordstrom, Inc.

The candle holder is constructed of plastic & could ignite if exposed to flame posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06142.html>

5/9/06 06-158

"Fireplace in a Box" Candle Kits

Running Press Book Publishers

The mini fireplace which houses the candle can ignite posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06158.html>

5/10/06 06-162

M&M's Brand Menorah

Masterfoods USA

If a candle burns all the way down, the plastic menorah could ignite & present a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06162.html>

COFFEE MAKERS

3/7/06 06-106

C100 Capresso Automatic Coffee Center

Eugster/Frismag of Switzerland

The electrical connectors in the espresso machine can erode, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06106.html>

3/30/06 06-124

Jura Impressa Automatic Coffee Center Espresso Machines

Eugster/Frismag of Switzerland

The electrical connectors in the espresso machine can erode, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06124.html>

ELECTRICAL ITEMS

3/8/06 06-109

Forever-Glo Nite Lites

American Tack & Hardware Co., Inc.

An electrical short circuit in the nightlight can cause it to overheat & smolder or melt posing a fire & burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06109.html>

3/13/06 06-111

AquaPod 12-gallon Aquariums

Current USA Inc.

When only 1 of the 2 lamp cords is plugged in the unplugged cord can become energized posing a shock hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06111.html>

3/15/06 06-114

Coca-Cola Electroplasma Lamps

Emess Design Group LLC

Burn hazard caused by an electric arc b/w the metal bottle cap & a human contact point.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06114.html>

4/4/06 06-129

InFocus LP120 Projector, ASK Proxima M1 Projector & SP-013 Replacement Lamp Module

InFocus Corp.

The units have improper wiring with inadequate insulation which could degrade over time posing a shock & fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06129.html>

4/4/06 06-131

Foldable Massaging Bed Rest with Heat

Brookstone Company Inc.

Electrical circuits within the bed rest can overheat causing the backside of the product to overheat posing a fire & burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06131.html>

4/19/06 06-143

Eusonic Hair Dryers

Saroj International Inc.

The power cord does not have an immersion protection plug. If it falls into the water it can pose a shock & electrocution hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06143.html>

ENGINES

4/4/06 06-130

Tecumseh Engines

Tecumseh Power Co.

The fuel line can become loose or disconnected resulting in a fuel leak which poses a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06130.html>

FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT

4/20/06 06-144

EVAC-U8 & EVAC+ Emergency Escape Smoke Hoods

Brookdale International Systems Inc.

The hoods could fail to work properly, exposing the user to harmful carbon monoxide which could seriously compromise their ability to escape the fire threat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06144.html>

5/2/06 06-151

First Alert Battery Powered Smoke Alarms & Combination Smoke/CO Alarms

BRK Brands Inc.

These alarms can drain the power from batteries rapidly causing premature low battery power and dead batteries.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06151.html>

LIGHTERS

3/30/06 06-125

"Speedway" Cigarette Lighters

Golden Star Group

The flame can flare up or the lighter can catch fire when ignited, posing risks of unexpected fires & burns.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06125.html>

Gloucester Man Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter

A Gloucester man whose reckless behavior resulted in a fire that killed a woman in his home, pleaded guilty on March 20, 2006 in Salem Superior Court to manslaughter.

Judge Leila R. Kern sentenced Russell Currier, 59, of Gloucester, to 2 ½ years in the House of Correction, one year to be served with the balance suspended for three years. The state asked that Currier be sentenced to 4-5 years in state prison, while the defense asked the court to impose the sentence handed down.

Essex Assistant District Attorney James Gubitose told the court that if the case had gone to trial, the Commonwealth would have presented evidence that early on the morning of December 22, 2003, Currier was lighting fireworks known as jumping jacks in his 163 Essex Avenue house. One of the jumping jacks accidentally struck a Christmas tree, which he hadn't watered in two weeks, lighting the tree on fire and setting the house ablaze. Ann Goyette, 45, of Gloucester, died in the fire. Susan Anderson, who was 38 at the time, survived the blaze. ♦

MA Firefighting Academy

Recruit Class #171

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Laurent R. McDonald are pleased to announce the graduation of the 171st Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty day Recruit Firefighters Training Program on March 31, 2006. Coan said, "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely." The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free.

71 Graduates From 35 Fire Departments

The seventy-one graduates, four women and 67 men, represent the thirty-five fire departments of: Amherst, Barnstable, Belmont, Billerica, Bourne, Braintree, Cambridge, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills, Cotuit, Falmouth, Gloucester, Hingham, Hull, Leominster, Lexington, Lincoln, Longmeadow, Lynn, Milford, Natick, Northampton, Northborough, Northbridge, Peabody, Plainville, Revere, Saugus, Stoughton, Taunton, Wakefield, Watertown, Westfield, Wilmington, Winchester and Winthrop. ♦

NIMS ICS-100 and ICS-200 to Be Prerequisites for NFA Course

Effective October 1, 2006, students applying for *Fire Protection Systems for Incident Commanders (R/N227 and R827)* will be required to show they have successfully completed fundamental Incident Command System training.

"Nearly half of the scenario-based course activities employ National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System skills," said National Fire Academy Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal, "so it is important that students have a proven understanding of the ICS concepts."

Prerequisites for the six-day Fire Protection Systems for Incident Commanders will include NIMS ICS 100 Introduction to NIMS ICS for Operational First Responders (Q462) and ICS 200 Basic NIMS ICS for Operational First Responders (Q463). Both courses can be found on the **NETC Virtual Campus**.

"This change will give us a chance to pilot our 'blended learning' proposal," Onieal said. "We're looking for more opportunities to use training and other exercises for students to

complete before they come to the National Fire Academy. We believe this concept will give students an enhanced learning experience, plus enable them to better use their time while at NFA."

Students should complete the ICS-100 and ICS-200 courses before submitting their application for Fire Protection Systems for Incident Commanders, and submit copies of their certificates with their **Form 75-5 course application**. The deadline for first semester courses is June 30, 2006, and December 31, 2006 for second semester courses.

Fire Protection Systems for Incident Commanders is designed to provide Incident Commanders at all levels with an understanding of the fire protection features that are installed in buildings, how these systems work, and how their proper utilization will assist them in achieving strategic and tactical success. The course emphasizes the value of collecting this information during pre-incident planning and how to utilize this knowledge to function effectively using these systems under emergency conditions.

Topics addressed in the course include developing model pre-incident plans; the importance of collecting and sharing information with other emergency responders; and understanding the fundamental operations, strengths and limitations of built-in fire protection features including fire walls, automatic sprinklers, standpipes, fire pumps, fire detection and alarm systems, smoke management systems, special hazard and integrated fire protection features.

The **ICS training components** are compliant with the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 for national preparedness. ♦

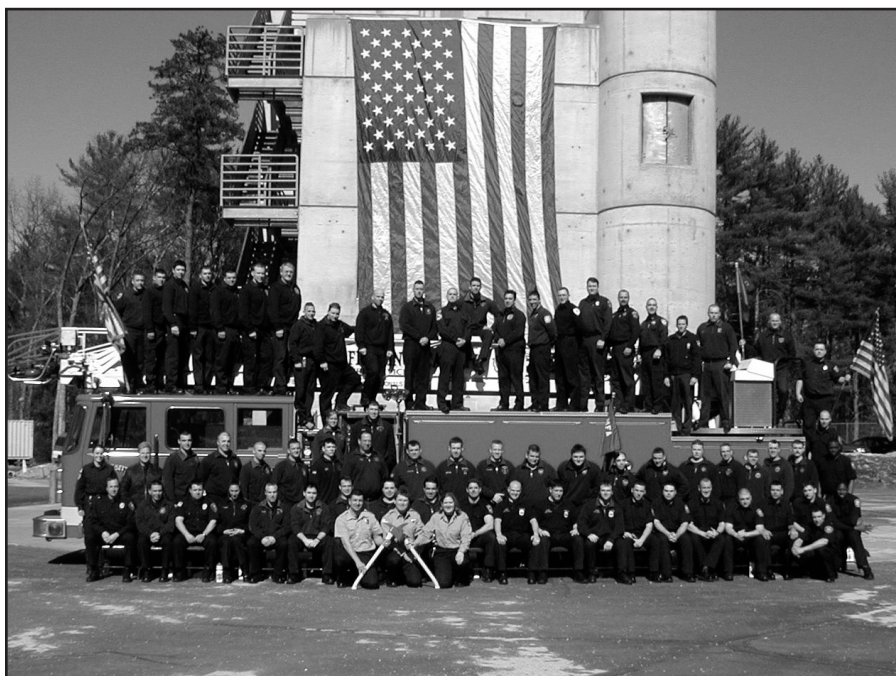


Photo by Sue Peltier

Recruit Class #171

Worried About Hybrid Vehicles?

Are hybrid vehicles dangerous for first responders following a crash? How does one keep up with all the types of hybrids and their specifications?

Now first responders can do some "one-stop shopping" on-line for some of these answers at <http://hybrid-cars.com> which provides numerous sources of information and links on the current hybrids on the market, including direct links to each vehicle's Emergency Response Guides as well as related information on the environment, incentives and laws, gas mileage, and oil dependence.

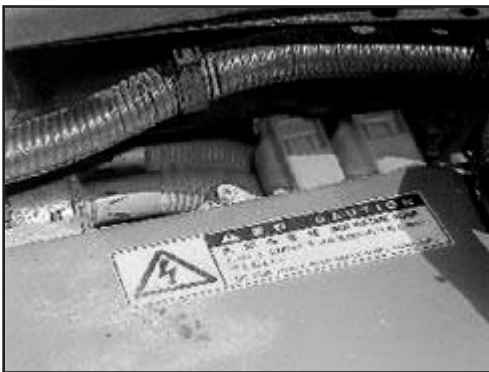
In addition to basic hybrid information under the "Technology" heading - any vehicle is a hybrid when it combines two or more sources of power, usually running off a rechargeable battery and gasoline - there's additional background information, such as:

- Hybrid engines are built smaller to accommodate the 99% of time when not going up hill or accelerating quickly. It uses the battery to provide extra acceleration power when needed.
- When the car is stopped, hybrid gasoline motors can shut off and run off their electric motor and battery.
- Hybrid cars are often lighter and more aerodynamic; tires are often stiffer and inflated higher to reduce drag.
- Hybrid cars often recover braking energy and use it to charge the battery.

Knowing a few basic things about hybrids-the location and construction of battery compartments, the color (orange) used to designate high voltage cables, and the location of fuses that will isolate the electrical system-should be enough to help first responders save lives and remain safe in the process. Removing the ignition key and disconnecting a

vehicle's 12-volt battery are common first-responder tasks in conventional vehicles already. Performing that task on a hybrid disables its high-voltage controller.

Within the Technology/Safety area, there is a section entitled, "Hybrids & First Responders," which outlines a common sense approach. Plus, the links to the various manufacturers Emergency Response Guides are found at the bottom of this section.



Hybrid battery orange warnings

The site recommends that a good amount of training - and, in case of fire, lots of water - should be most of what a first responder needs upon arriving at an accident involving a hybrid.

"A little preparation and common sense should mean that hybrid cars can be treated much like any other car on the road in an accident."

- Ron Moore, Firehouse Magazine Editor

Ron Moore, a battalion chief in the McKinney Texas Fire Department and the University of Extrication editor for Firehouse Magazine, is quoted in this section. Moore recently wrote that extinguishing a hybrid vehicle fire wouldn't differ dramatically from suppressing a fire in a non-hybrid car. The best tool to accomplish this is copious amounts of water, which will both eliminate

the radiant heat and also cool the hybrid's metal battery box and the plastic cells inside the battery pack. Moore continues to say that extracting someone from a damaged hybrid wouldn't be much different from a conventional vehicle.

This section concludes with the following: "In short, a little preparation and common sense should mean that hybrid cars can be treated much like any other car on the road in an accident."

DFS now has hybrids in its vehicle fleet - two Ford Escapes. ♦

Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) Alarms Can Fail at High Temperatures

By Charlie Dickinson

Posted on February 21, 2006 on the U.S. Fire Administration website.

A very serious problem related to reduced audibility of PASS alarm signals has been brought to the attention of the National Fire Protection

Association's (NFPA) Electronic Safety Equipment Committee by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program. NIOSH discovered through recent

firefighter fatality investigations that exposure to high temperature environments may cause the loudness of the alarm signal to be reduced. This reduction in loudness may cause the signal to become indistinguishable from background noise on the fire ground. If a rapid intervention team (RIT) cannot hear a PASS alarm signal (above fire ground noise), it

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may diminish their ability to locate and rescue downed firefighters. The PASS alarms that were involved in these investigations were certified as compliant to NFPA 1982, Standard on *Personal Alert Safety Systems* (PASS) 1998 Edition.

Initial laboratory testing by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Fire Research Division, as part of the continuing research project on the performance of PASS devices supported by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), has highlighted that this sound reduction may begin to occur at temperatures as low as 300 F (150 C) and could affect all PASS. Additional work to better characterize the thermal conditions (temperatures and exposure durations) that contribute to alarm signal degradation is still needed.

PASS Devices

The Electronic Safety Equipment Committee of the NFPA continues to study the issue in cooperation with NIOSH and NIST and will implement appropriate action.

NFPA has also published additional information regarding the recent NIOSH investigations of PASS failures. Fire departments and other emergency service organizations, as well as firefighters and emergency response personnel, should report any PASS malfunctions and other problems with PASS functioning directly to the certification organization whose certification mark appears on the PASS and by e-mail to the NIOSH-National Personal Protection Laboratory. ♦

SIMulation Tractor

Continued from Page 1

DFS is in the process of issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) from vendors to install incident command training equipment and software into a tractor-trailer. The SIM Trailer will provide a mobile platform for training simulations of fire and all hazards training; command and control scenarios; and fire based computer training. It is fully equipped and also can serve as an actual on-site Emergency Operations Center anywhere in Massachusetts.

The SIM Trailer RFP has specified CommandSIM Fire as its instructional software. CommandSIM will simulate command and control scenarios that will give fire commanders an effective way to teach their departments and it will give firefighters the 'real life' experience needed to succeed in a crisis. It will also provide a method to evaluate teamwork, which

is difficult to capture in a traditional classroom environment.

Responders log in and the instructor then places them "on scene." Each responder can navigate through the scene independently as they role-play their assignments. Instructors can dynamically evolve the incident, which immediately updates responders' views based on their scene locations. DFS can also create custom scenarios from its own digital photos, video, and audio. They can customize realistic smoke, fire, and vapor cloud effects, victims, and even interactive simulated equipment.

Mobile SIM training allows for greater accessibility by bringing the training to the first responders, eliminating some of the complexity of training entire teams off-site. ♦

Have an Interesting Photo?

If you or your colleagues have an usually interesting and/or different photo of firefighters, EMS or other first responders in your community, then the All Hands Herald may be interested in publishing it. If you'd like to submit a photo for the next issue of the All Hands Herald, please contact Donna Nelson, Assistant to the Deputy Fire Marshal, at Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us.



Photo by Barry Hyvarinen

Trivia Question:

What eastern fire chief is considered the father of modern building codes?

Answer: John Damrell was Boston's Fire Chief during the Great Fire of 1872. Later he became the inspector of buildings for Boston during the 1880's and is considered the father of code enforcement and building codes at the national level. PBS just aired an interesting documentary film on Chief Damrell called *Damrell's Fire*. ♦

Information Technology

How to Avoid Getting Junk and SPAM Emails

By Steve Pheeny, DFS IT Manager

Steps

Avoid subscribing to too many sites for their newsletters and stuff. Most of them send you letters and emails from their partner sites as well.

Simply "Delete" your junk and unwanted messages. Never "Unsubscribe" to those email lists to which you never subscribed. Many emails ask you to "Unjoin" by replying to that email or clicking some link. Following that procedure will let them know that you are real and they should keep on sending stuff. Only unsubscribe the emails you once subscribed.

Use "Filters" for your email. In most of them, you have to define some words, and the emails having those words in your email will be deleted automatically.

Browse safely! Some sites install spyware hidden in their Browser Toolbars and other useful software that they freely offer. They attract users to install them by offering thousands of smiley icons, screen savers and stuff. It's better to keep some updated anti-virus software to protect against spyware.

Tips

You can use mail rules to have Notes act automatically on new messages you receive that meet certain conditions. For example, you could create a rule that checks for messages from a certain sender or that contain a certain subject and have Notes automatically move the messages to a certain folder, send copies of the messages to someone, or delete unwanted messages before you ever see them in your Inbox.

Create another home (non DFS) email account for using Online Forums and Newsletter Subscriptions. Keep your personal home email

address only between friends and contacts.

Do not subscribe to non-work related lists using your DFS email account.

Don't write your email address on websites, online forums, etc. Some systems crawl the sites and collect email addresses. Use some alternative email address, or use something like "my_name at gmail dot com", which will prevent those crawlers from recognizing it as an email address.

ITD the State's IT department has added filtering software for most spam BUT we here at DFS do not block email UNLESS it contains images. The software can't tell what the image may be so most are blocked.

For your home email, one should keep monitoring your emails and keep adding "Bad Words", eg: Viagra, \ / iagra, v\agra, v.i.a.g.r.a, etc depending on the type of emails you get.

Don't take part in "Chain Emails" and "Forward emails". They only share your email address to spammers.

Warnings

While applying "Filters", use those words that you really want to avoid, and be sure they won't come in any friendly email. You can create a filter for Word "Viagra", but avoid doing it for "Cell Phone", or else a friend sharing "My new Cell phone number" will be deleted as well.

Password safety

Change your password often. The quick act of changing your password can ensure your e-mail remains private. In addition, passwords that use both letters and numbers are harder to break.

Don't share your password. Most e-mail administrators will not ask for your password. Do not be duped by malicious e-mails asking you for your password. This is a well known, although not-too-common trick designed to fool you into sharing your password. As a rule, never share it with anyone.

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DFS Web Site in Transition

By Steve Pheeny & Ken Nyberg

We are in the process of migrating the Department of Fire Services web pages to a new portalized website. One can find a link to DFS's new "portalized landing page" on the right hand side of DFS's home page. The purpose behind the transition is to join other Mass.Gov websites with a common look and feel. Web sites are becoming the information window to the world and standardization of access will encourage the growing population of web users to utilize more fully the vast amount of information that is available on our own website and other state agency websites. While the migration is in process there will be links between the old and new website until all of the information is available on the new Department of Fire Services portalized website. When you find the information located at a new URL it is best to create a "Favorite" or "Bookmark" in your web browser. If you are uncertain how to create a "Favorite" or "Bookmark" please call the IT help desk at ext. 3777 and as always, we will be glad to help. ♦

Never open attachments from unknown sources. They may contain what are known as “letterbombs” or “viruses,” which can damage your PC.

Always remember to sign out when you are done. It’s quick, easy and may save your account from unwanted trespassers. If you are using a public terminal, at an Internet cafe or public library for example, it is advised that you close the browser you were using when you are ready to end your Internet session.

Don’t reply to unsolicited messages (“spam”) mail, or other harassing or offensive mail. By responding, you only confirm that you are a person with an active e-mail address who can be plagued with constant unwanted e-mail solicitations.

Make sure that you are using the most up-to-date Internet software (e.g. browsers such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator). More recent versions often offer enhanced security protection.

Always use a secure network. Most corporate networks and Internet service providers are protected by administrators who watch for potential security problems and act to protect users from “hackers” (malicious users) who may try to steal personal information that is transferred through the network. Although the risk is small, use caution when on any unfamiliar network. Use stations maintained by sources you trust, or ask if the Internet terminal you are using is protected against security break-ins.

Use common sense when you’re on the Internet and maintain a healthy dose of skepticism. Use caution when revealing personal information, such as your physical address, to anyone you meet in cyberspace, even if they claim to be someone of authority.

Common Email Scams

Email inboxes are filling up with more offers for business opportunities than any other kind of unsolicited commercial email. This is a problem, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), because many of these offers are scams.

The FTC has identified the following most common 13 scams. They are:

1. Lottery Winner Scam

The email stated that the lottery was sponsored by Bill Gates and Microsoft. The email didn’t provide a company name or web address or contact information for this lottery company, indicating the probability of a scam. The return address was a Netscape email address. The amount was \$2,000,000 in this particular case, of course the amount can vary in different emails. After requesting verification from Microsoft, we learned that they had not sponsored this lottery and it was determined to be a scam. Sometime during this scam, you could expect to be asked for your bank or some other information that could give the scammers access to your funds. Although this scam is typically very easy to spot by anyone who knows what to look for, it is often extremely easy to be drawn into a scam like this hoping that it just might be real.

2. Business opportunities

These business opportunities make it sound simple to create a business that will bring high income without much work or cash required. The solicitations speak of unbelievable earnings of \$150 a day, \$1,000 a day, or more, and typically claim that the business doesn’t involve selling, meetings, or personal contact with others, or that someone else will do all the work. Many of the business opportunity solicitations claim to offer a process to make money in an Internet-related business. These emails are typically short on details

but long on promises, these messages frequently offer a telephone number to call for more information. In many cases, you will be instructed to leave your name and telephone number so that a salesperson can call you back with the sales pitch.

The scam: Many of these business opportunities are illegal pyramid schemes masquerading as legitimate opportunities to earn money.

3. Bulk email

Bulk email solicitations offer to sell you lists of email addresses, by the millions, to which you can send your own bulk solicitations. Some offer software that automates the sending of email messages to thousands or millions of recipients. Others offer the service of sending bulk email solicitations on your behalf. Some of these offers say, or imply, that you can make a lot of money using this marketing method.

The problem: Sending bulk email violates the terms of service of most Internet service providers. If you use one of the automated email programs, your ISP may shut you down. In addition, inserting a false return address into your solicitations, as some of the automated programs allow you to do, may land you in legal hot water with the owner of the address’s domain name. Several states have laws regulating the sending of unsolicited commercial email, which you may unwittingly violate by sending bulk email. Few legitimate businesses, if any, engage in bulk email marketing for fear of offending potential customers.

4. Chain letters

You’re asked to send a small amount of money (\$5 to \$20) to each of four or five names on a list, replace one of the names on the list with your own, and then forward the revised message via bulk email. The letter

may claim that the scheme is legal, that it's been reviewed or approved by the government; or it may refer to sections of U.S. law that legitimize the scheme. Don't believe it.

The scam: Chain letters, traditional or high-tech, are almost always illegal, and nearly all of the people who participate in them lose their money. The fact that a "product" such as a report on how to make money fast, a mailing list, or a recipe may be changing hands in the transaction does not change the legality of these schemes.

5. Work-at-home schemes

Envelope-stuffing solicitations promise steady income for minimal labor—for example, you'll earn \$2 each time you fold a brochure and seal it in an envelope. Craft assembly work schemes often require an investment of hundreds of dollars in equipment or supplies, and many hours of your time producing goods for a company that has promised to buy them.

The scam: You'll pay a small fee to get started in the envelope-stuffing business. Then, you'll learn that the email sender never had real employment to offer. Instead, you'll get instructions on how to send the same envelope-stuffing ad in your own bulk emailings. If you earn any money, it will be from others who fall for the scheme you're perpetuating. And after spending the money and putting in the time on the craft assembly work, you are likely to find promoters who refuse to pay you, claiming that your work isn't up to their "quality standards."

6. Health and diet scams

Pills that let you lose weight without exercising or changing your diet, herbal formulas that liquefy your fat cells so that they are absorbed by your body, and cures for impotence and hair loss are among the scams flooding email boxes.

The scam: These gimmicks don't work. The fact is that successful weight loss requires a reduction in calories and an increase in physical activity. Beware of case histories from "cured" consumers claiming amazing results; testimonials from "famous" medical experts you've never heard of; claims that the product is available from only one source or for a limited time; and ads that use phrases like "scientific breakthrough," "miraculous cure," "exclusive product," "secret formula," and "ancient ingredient."

7. Effortless income

The trendiest get-rich-quick schemes offer unlimited profits exchanging money on world currency markets; newsletters describing a variety of easy-money opportunities; the perfect sales letter; and the secret to making \$4,000 in one day.

The scam: If these systems worked, wouldn't everyone be using them? The thought of easy money may be appealing, but success generally requires hard work.

8. Free goods

Some email messages offer valuable goods for example: computers, other electronic items, and long-distance phone cards for free. You're asked to pay a fee to join a club, and then told that to earn the offered goods, you have to bring in a certain number of participants. You're paying for the right to earn income by recruiting other participants, but your payoff is in goods, not money.

The scam: Most of these messages are covering up pyramid schemes, operations that inevitably collapse. Almost the entire payoff goes to the promoters and little or none to consumers who pay to participate.

9. Investment opportunities

Investment schemes promise outrageously high rates of return with no risk. One version seeks investors to

help form an offshore bank. Others are vague about the nature of the investment, stressing the rates of return. Many are Ponzi schemes, in which early investors are paid off with money contributed by later investors. This makes the early investors believe that the system actually works, and encourages them to invest even more.

Promoters of fraudulent investments often operate a particular scam for a short time, quickly spend the money they take in, and then close down before they can be detected. Often, they reopen under another name, selling another investment scam. In their sales pitch, they'll say that they have high-level financial connections; that they're privy to inside information; that they'll guarantee the investment; or that they'll buy back the investment after a certain time. To close the deal, they often serve up phony statistics, misrepresent the significance of a current event, or stress the unique quality of their offering—anything to deter you from verifying their story.

The scam: Ponzi schemes eventually collapse because there isn't enough money coming in to continue simulating earnings. Other schemes are a good investment for the promoters, but not for participants.

10. Cable descrambler kits

For a small sum of money, you can buy a kit to assemble a cable descrambler that supposedly allows you to receive cable television transmissions without paying any subscription fee.

The scam: The device that you build probably won't work. Most of the cable TV systems in the U.S. use technology that these devices can't crack. What's more, even if it worked, stealing service from a cable television company is illegal.

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Code Compliance & Enforcement

UST Provisions of Federal Energy Act of 2005

On August 8, 2005, President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Title XV, Subtitle B of this Act is entitled Underground Storage Tank Compliance Act of 2005. This law significantly impacts federal and state underground storage tank programs and will require major changes to the programs. These changes will impact both public and private owners of underground storage tank facilities.

The focus of the Energy Act provisions is on preventing releases from underground storage tank systems. Some of the provisions will require implementation by August 2006; others will require implementation in subsequent years.

The following are some of the most significant provisions.

Inspecting Underground Storage Tanks

States receiving Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding (Massachusetts receives such funding) must conduct on-site inspections of all underground storage tank facilities that have not been inspected since December 22, 1998. These inspections must be conducted no later than August 2007. Thereafter, states must inspect these facilities at least once every three years. The EPA may grant an additional year to complete the first three-year inspection cycle. A number of states, including Massachusetts are considering requiring tank owners and operators to hire third party inspectors to complete the tri-annual inspections.

Operator Training

States receiving EPA funding must develop state specific requirements for the training of three separate classes of operator: owner, man-

ager, and employee. All of these employees will be required to have job specific training related to underground storage tanks. Massachusetts as well as other states are looking to industry and third parties to develop the actual training.

Public Records

States receiving EPA funding must maintain and update at least annually and make available to the public records of regulated underground storage tanks. EPA will determine the manner and form for the information. The information must contain the number, source, and causes of underground storage tank release, the record of compliance and information on equipment failures. Much of this information is already available on the Department of Fire Services website www.mass.gov/ust.

Fuel Delivery Prohibition

States receiving EPA funding must develop guidelines to implement delivery prohibition to underground storage tanks. In Massachusetts the authority to prohibit delivery already exists in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 § 38G. Additional procedures for identifying prohibition criteria, owner notification will need to be developed. The procedures must be in place no later than August 2007.

Secondary Containment or Financial Responsibility

All new or replacement tanks, piping and dispenser systems located within 1000 feet of a community water supply or drinking water well must have secondary containment with interstitial monitoring. **OR** The manufacturer and or installer of the tanks, piping, and dispenser systems must maintain evidence of financial responsibility "in order to provide for the costs of corrective

action directly related to releases caused by improper manufacturer or installation." Many states including Massachusetts are considering the secondary containment option. Requirements must be in place no later than February 8, 2007.

Certification of Tank Installers/Tank Installations

All underground storage tank systems will be required to be installed by certified or licensed certified people, or be certified by certified/licensed individuals. Private certification services currently exist for tank installers. Massachusetts along with other states is considering adopting this private certification system. Requirements must be in place no later than February 8, 2007.

The Department of Fire Services is currently working with the EPA and stakeholders (UST trade organizations, fire services, Board of Fire Prevention Regulations) to define the issues, and propose solutions. For further information you may contact Code Compliance & Enforcement Supervisor Dave Beaudin at 978-567-3711. ♦

USTs and E10

Continued from Page 1

by petroleum or tank service companies. There are several cleaning processes currently being used. During these processes sludge and water is removed from the tanks. Because ethanol acts as a solvent, failure to clean the tanks may result in significantly compromised fuel being introduced into vehicles. This would be of particular concern for emergency vehicles.

If you have any questions regarding the conversion to E10 or the cleaning processes, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181 ♦

Contact Number for July 4th Holiday

The summer fireworks season is fast approaching. Final plans for the Fourth of July fireworks displays are taking place and precautionary planning becomes increasingly important. Advance planning is necessary to respond appropriately should problems be encountered the day or evening of the display. While the primary concern is the prevention of incidents that have the potential to injure, other issues of non-compliance can still occur the day of the display. Compliance is available now to assist with site inspections, natural barrier approval and other regulatory questions.

Once again, it is strongly recommended that the same procedures be followed this year where a representative of the department takes a

close look at the display during the setup process in the late afternoon daylight hours. This procedure provides the best opportunity to inspect and correct any compliance issues and insure a safe and successful fireworks display.

Please be assured that once again the Department of Fire Services – Office of the State Fire Marshal stands ready to provide the highest possible level of technical, compliance and enforcement support during this long and important holiday week. In an effort to provide additional inspection guidelines, DFS has prepared a suggested checklist for the three stages of a fireworks program. If you have any questions about Users Certificates or Certificates of Competency, please contact

our Licensing Division at 978-567-3700.

Approval of Dense Pack Portable Firing Trailers and Electric Firing Panels

All dense pack portable firing trailers and electric firing panels inspected and approved by this office pursuant to 527 CMR 2.08(6) &(8) must now bear an approval decal issued by our office.

This took effect March 1, 2005. Our office has been affixing for display a decal to all approved firing trailers and firing boards. The decals are red in color and measure 3 inches high by 2 inches wide. The decals include a serial number and indicate the month and year that the approval expires. ♦

Fireworks Statistics

According to the 2005 Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) data, there were 72 fires and explosions reported that involved fireworks: 48 fires and 24 explosions with no fires. The 48 fires caused an estimated \$44,925 in property damages. Nineteen, or 40% of the fireworks-caused fires in 2005 took place during the week of the 4th of July. There were 24 fireworks explosions with no fires reported to MFIRS in 2005. Four, or 17%, of these explosions occurred during the week of the 4th of July.

In the past decade (1996-2005) there have been 577 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the MFIRS. These 577 fires and explosions caused 17 civilian injuries, nine fire service injuries, two civilian fatalities and an estimated dollar loss of \$1,647,187. This is quite a substantial amount since most fireworks related fires are outside brush fires and do not usually have high loss figures. A majority of these fires occurred during the week of the 4th of July holiday.

On June 24, 2005, the Boston Fire Department was called to a rooftop fire at a manufacturing facility. Someone had shot fireworks at the building's roof and they ignited the asphalt roofing materials. Damages from this fire were estimated to be \$5,000.

On July 3, 2005, the Rowley Fire Department was called to a boat fire on land. A burning ember from a massive illegal fireworks display landed on top of the boat cover. The boat fire ignited the nearby single-family residence. Total damages were estimated to be \$20,000.

On July 4, 2005, the Newton Fire Department was dispatched to a garage fire. Children playing with skyrockets accidentally ignited a mattress stored inside a garage. Damages were estimated to be \$12,500.

On July 5, 2005, the Boston Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in a "three-decker" apartment building. Someone playing with fireworks ignited the third story balcony. Damages were estimated to be \$2,000.

On July 8, 2005, the Amesbury Fire Department was called to a fire in a backyard shed. A 14-year old boy was playing with fireworks and ignited the shed. Damages from this fire were estimated to be \$8,000.

For more information or a copy of our downloadable FireFactors on the Dangers of Fireworks, click on www.mass.gov/dfs/news_events/press/fireworks/index.htm. The use of any firework by private citizens is prohibited by law in Massachusetts. ♦



USFA and NFPA Release Report on Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires

May 10, 2006 — Acting United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) President and Chief Executive Officer James Shannon announced on May 10, 2006 the completion of a report on *Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires*. The report is the result of a United States Fire Administration (USFA) partnership with NFPA to develop sound, research-based recommendations for behavioral mitigation strategies to reduce smoking fire fatalities in the United States.

“Smoking continues to be the number one cause of residential fire deaths, which justifies a new look at research about the role of behaviors in causing those deaths,” said Acting USFA Administrator Charlie Dickinson. “Through this partnership with NFPA, hopefully, we can reduce fire deaths from this cause.”

Smoking-material fire deaths are

more likely to involve a fire that begins very close to the victim. The percentage of smoking-material fatal fire victims who are “intimate” with ignition is three times the corresponding percentage for fires due to other causes, according to the report. Fatal victims of smoking-material fires are, therefore, less likely than fatal victims of other kinds of

Download Report, PDF - 4.9 MB
at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/media/2006releases/051006.shtm>

fires to be saved by strategies and technologies that react after ignition, such as smoke alarms. For many, if not most, of these victims, there is no substitute for prevention. The report further noted that one in four fatal victims is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

The project recommends the use of general messages and several

specific messages aimed at specific audiences. The recommended messages are:

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays. Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like an end table.
- Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dowsing in water or sand is the best way to do that.
- Check under furniture cushions and in other places people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.
- Smoking should not be allowed in a home where oxygen is used.
- If you smoke, choose fire-safe cigarettes. They are less likely to cause fires.
- To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been consuming alcohol, or have taken medication or other drugs. ♦

Coalition Urges Mass. Legislature to Pass Fire-Safe Cigarette Bill



May 2, 2006 — Firefighters from around the state joined the newly-formed Massachusetts Coalition

for Fire-Safe Cigarettes to urge the Legislature to pass a bill (HB 1914/SB 2403) requiring tobacco companies to produce and sell only “fire-safe” cigarettes in Massachusetts. The Coalition, which was launched at a state house news conference today, is a group of fire service members, consumer and disabled rights advocates, health practitioners and others, who have previously worked informally to save lives and prevent injuries by reducing the threat of cigarette-ignited fires.

“Hundreds of lives are lost each year in fires caused by smoking materials. Yet the technology for fire-safe cigarettes exists,” said National Fire Protection Association President

James M. Shannon. “Legislation being considered on Beacon Hill will help stop the senseless loss of life caused by these fires and will not cost the state of Massachusetts anything.”

“So far this year, at least seven deaths in Massachusetts are believed to have been the result of cigarette-ignited fires,” said Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, “These fires not only kill, they injure smokers and firefighters and cause millions of dollars in property damage.”

According to the Coalition, fire-safe cigarettes are made with special paper that slows down and extinguishes a cigarette's burn if the smoker is not actively puffing on it and are less likely to cause fires than regular cigarettes.

Acknowledging the presence of the Kearney family from Boston who lost six people in one of the city's deadliest fires, Representative Rachel Kapri-

elien (Watertown) said, “The Kearney bill will save families and is long overdue. We can do something to prevent others from having to endure the pain and suffering the Kearney's must live with everyday.”

Fire-safe cigarette mandates have passed in California, New York, and Vermont (and for all of Canada). A similar bill is awaiting the Governor's signature in Illinois. Several other states including New Hampshire and Rhode Island are considering such legislation.

“I was pleased to lead the Senate effort to pass this bill,” said Senator Stephen Brewer (Barre). “The time for Massachusetts to join this movement is now.”

Cigarette-ignited fires are the leading cause of home fire deaths in the United States, killing 700 to 900 people annually. ♦

New Law Requires Schools to Report Fires

A new law passed in early May now requires schools to report fires to fire authorities. Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2006 created a new section 2A of Mass. General Law C. 148. It takes effect 90 days from signing so will be in effect at the start of the new school year. Fire and law enforcement authorities have long sought this law so they can better protect their communities. Fire officials know that all fires start small, so every fire has the potential to rob the community of a valuable asset - the school itself.

Juvenile firesetters will continue to set fires until they receive appropriate intervention. The sooner a child's cry for help is heard, the sooner the child will receive help. No one does a child with a firesetting problem any good if they do not react appropriately and swiftly. If schools have a series of fires but only call fire and law enforcement officials when "they have a big one", then none of that pattern of fire setting can be used to make the case for getting a student the help they

need, and in the mean time, the entire school community is placed at risk.

While juvenile firesetting is not the only cause of school fires, it is the most common. MFIRS indicates 21% of school fires are intentionally-set, 21% are indoor rubbish fires for which cause is not collected but should be considered intentionally-set, and juvenile firesetting accounts for 2%. Since most school fires occur when school is in session, the

***"All fires start small,
so every fire has the potential
to rob the community of a
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data indicates 45% of school fires are most likely started by the students themselves.

Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2006 An Act Relative to the Reporting of fires in School

SECTION 1. Section 37L of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appear-

ing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "nineteen", in line 5, the following words:- , and the reporting requirements relating to fires in section 2A of chapter 148.

SECTION 2. Chapter 148 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2 the following section:-Section 2A. The principal of any public or private school that provides instruction to pupils in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, shall immediately report any incident involving the unauthorized ignition of any fire within the school building or on school grounds to the local fire department. The principal shall submit a written report of the incident to the head of the fire department within 24

hours on a form furnished by the Department of Fire Services. The report shall be filed without regard to the extent of the fire or whether there was a response by the fire department. The head of the fire department shall report such incident to the marshal in accordance with section 2. ♦

Nightclub Sprinkler Plans Due May 15

On April 27, 2006, State Fire Marshal Coan reminded local fire chiefs about an important deadline on the implementation of the law requiring sprinklers in certain buildings designed or used as a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque, bar, or for similar entertainment purposes (M.G.L. c. 148, s.26G1/2; st. 2004, c.304).

Buildings subject to this law are required to install automatic sprinklers within three years of the effective date of the law (by November 15, 2007). Additionally, such buildings are required to submit plans for such installation to the head of the fire department and the building inspec-

tor within 18 months of the effective date (by May 15, 2006, [see section 11, st.2004, c.304]).

It appears that most fire departments in the Commonwealth have taken proactive enforcement action by issuing the required Order of Notice to owners of any building subject to this law. However, fire departments are reminded that in such cases, plans should have been filed by the May 15, 2006, deadline. Departments may choose to remind owners of the obligation to file plans, but should simply remind them of the previous Order of Notice and their obligation to file the plans by May 15, 2006. Fire departments should not re-issue a new Order of Notice, since such

action may re-trigger a new right of appeal.

With respect to those persons who have filed an appeal of your Order to the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board, it should be noted that the filing of a valid and timely appeal generally stays or prevents enforcement action from continuing, (including the requirement to submit the plans) pending the outcome of the appeal (see M.G.L. c.6, s.201).

Additional information about this important law can be found by visiting the DFS or Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board web site at www.mass.gov/dfs/index.shtm or by calling DFS at 978-567-3181. ♦

Statewide Mass Decontamination System Selected as Finalist for National Homeland Security Award

Mitretek Systems and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's prestigious John F. Kennedy School have selected the Statewide Mass Decontamination System program as one of the five finalists for the prestigious Mitretek Innovations Award in Homeland Security.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts combined efforts to provide a statewide mass decontamination response system for every community in the state. This unprecedented system protects every community and every hospital in the state through 91 identical mass decontamination units in local fire departments where each have custom designed equipment and training.

The Mitretek Innovations Award in Homeland Security is the first major national award program of its kind created since 9/11, to discover, recognize, and honor, the most effective programs designed to address homeland security. Through this national award program, Mitretek, a leading technology company operating in the public interest, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, seek to identify, and highlight creative and effective government solutions—and the leaders behind them—to the nation's homeland security concerns.

A panel of highly credentialed leaders and experts in the field who will select a winner from among the finalists also bolsters the Mitretek-Harvard partnership. Representatives from the selection panel conducted a two-day site visit to each of the five finalist programs and prepared a report for the selection

committee, chaired by former CIA and FBI Director, William Webster.

Representatives from the Statewide Mass Decontamination Response System, along with the other finalist, made presentations to the selection committee at Harvard on April 18, 2006.

The announcement of the winner of the Award will be made in the summer of 2006.

The Mitretek Innovations Award in Homeland Security represents an important collaboration between Mitretek Systems, a nonprofit scientific research and systems engineering company that operates solely in the public interest, and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, sponsor of the Innovations in American Government Awards. ♦

DFS Staff in Different Uniforms

Continued from Page 3

with a clean slate. Stay in touch with family and friends, bring a decent camera with you as you'll want to remember what you'll be going through."

"Attitude is everything," added Pilot Hunt. "The media has a way of wearing you down. Try to disregard CNN and the New York Times and focus on the mission."

There are a couple of other DFS staff members who may need their colleagues' advice. Firefighter/Paramedic Walter L. Guertin, with the Attleboro Fire Department, is a Sergeant 1st Class, U.S. Army Reserve. Walter was an MFA instructor and, after 9/11, was one of the SEEP and SATURN instructors and worked with MFA's Industrial Division. He was activated in July 2005 and deployed to Iraq in September 2005,

where he is still stationed working in counter-intelligence.

Lawrence firefighter David Swarbrick is active in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a medic in two recent tours of



Sgt. Frank McGinn (far right) with part of his Base Reaction Force prior to leaving the base.

duty, one stateside, the other overseas, and is awaiting deployment. Dave worked in the crib room from

2000 - 2005, with a couple of leaves of absence to serve in the Air Force. Also, Paul Jacques, a MFA instructor for recruit and an Attleboro firefighter, left April 15, 2006 for training and deployment overseas.

Paul Jacques, a recruit training instructor and a 11 year veteran with the Attleboro Fire Department, was deployed to Iraq in early May 2006. He is serving as a military firefighter/EMT with the Air National Guard. A 15-year veteran with the ANG, based at Otis on Cape Cod, he's responsible for firefighting duties and emergency medical response on the airfield, on-base and off-base. He is part of a Rescue Air Mobile Squad (RAMS), which was developed to assist in the rapid removal of injured personnel from damaged vehicles and aircraft. ♦

Public Education

12th annual Fire and Life Safety Public Education Conference

The 12th annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Public Education Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, September 28-29, 2006 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. The conference will run 9-4:30 on Thursday and 9-3:30 on Friday. The Mass. Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force has planned workshops for fire and life safety educators of every level of experience. There are core offerings for newcomers to the field; new workshops to challenge experienced educators; workshops to help create new partnerships, learn about new programs, and to expand and deepen skills as instructors and managers.

Teamwork Theme

The theme this year is *Teamwork: The Road to a Championship, Continuing the S.A.F.E. Legacy*. The S.A.F.E. Program has been successful

with teachers, caregivers, nurses, health educators and the children themselves, have made the difference between finding families at the meeting place and telling families their loved one is gone.

TEAMWORK: The Road to a Championship



in reducing the average number of children who die in fires each year by 60%. This accomplishment involved a lot of teamwork inside the fire service and more importantly outside the fire service. Partnerships

Special Workshops for Teachers and Other Partners

There are workshops specifically designed to attract classroom teachers and other community partners. There is even a modest registration discount when firefighters and other community partners register together (just write the name of the community partner on the registration form.) Fire educators should ask. ♦

Papa Gino's Open Houses

This is the 13th year that Papa Gino's Restaurants has supported open houses at fire stations in the 170 communities they serve in New England. Fire departments that do not have a Papa Gino's in town, but are within 5 miles of one, may contact Papa Gino's corporate at 508-435-2020 to see if arrangements can be made. They won't require a restaurant to support more than one open house but some will if they are on different days.

Important to Return Your Contract in August

Fire departments will be receiving information in August from Papa Gino's corporate that will include a contract. It is important to return your contract promptly, because it will be the trigger for publicity for the open house, and for sending educational, promotional and other support materials for the open house. It is not enough to simply have a nice conversation with the local store manager. If you do not return the contract,

there is no guarantee that the pizzas will be ready for you.

In addition to providing free pizza and paper products, Papa Gino's provides, free children's coloring sheets, Papa Gino's coupons, fire hats, a banner materials or replacement date stickers for banners, and media relations campaign to create publicity for the overall program and the open houses. Educational materials in Spanish will also be available upon request, provided by the Home Safety Council.

One Slice of Pizza Goes a Long Way

The program is designed to educate families on home fire safety. The program will be implemented in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Maine and supported by restaurant communications and media relations. For further information please contact Mariann Sabella Dempsey at (508) 435-2020. It's amazing how a slice of pizza can



help give us an opportunity to inform the public about how the fire service protects the community and to educate the public on what they can do to enhance their own fire and life safety. ♦



Cooking Fires is Theme for FPW 2006

The NFPA has announced "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat" — is the message of this year's Fire Prevention Week. From October 8-14, 2006. The goal is to spread the word that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home — and teaching families and kids how to keep cooking fires from starting in the first place.

MFIRS V5 Coding

It's summertime and that means barbecues and fireworks. Here are a few coding tips:

Fireworks

If there is a fireworks explosion with no fire, code the Incident Type as a 243 – Fireworks explosion (no fire).

- Any casualty under this incident type would be classified as an EMS Casualty and not a Civilian Fire Casualty.

If fireworks ignite a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is and **code Heat Source = 54 – Fireworks** in the Fire Module.

- If the fireworks ignited more fireworks, code **Item First Ignited = 88 - Pyrotechnics** in the Fire Module.
- If fireworks are stored at the site of the incident, code **On-Site Materials = 934– Fireworks, commercially made** on the Fire Module.

Gas Grills

If the fire is contained to the grill, code **the Incident Type as a 162 – Outside Equipment Fire**.

If the grill started a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is.

- On the Fire Module **Equipment Involved in Ignition** should be **643 – Grill, hibachi, barbecue**.
- Select the appropriate code for **Equipment Power Source**:
- 11 or 12 – Electrical Line Voltage;
- 22 – LP Gas or Other Heavier Than Air Gas;
- 42 – Coal, charcoal.

2005 Fire Data – Closing the Year for Analysis

The Fire Data Unit is in the process of closing the database for calendar year 2005. Once the quality control is completed, the year will be closed and staff can start the analysis cycle of Community Profiles, County Profiles and the 2005 MFIRS Annual Report. You can submit incidents at any time; it's just once the year is closed any incidents submitted

after that will not be included in the analysis.

If you have any incidents that you think may make a good anecdote for the 2005 county profiles or the annual report please forward your suggestions to Derryl Dion. These could be large loss, multiple casualty or unusual circumstance fires.

By this printing, every fire department should have submitted all of their 2005 incidents to MFIRS. If a department did not have any reportable fires in 2005 and have not already done so, the chief should sign the Certificate of No Reportable Fires that has been sent previously, and return it to Derryl Dion at the OSFM as soon as possible. Otherwise send in the department's fire incident reports. If a department is having trouble with it's computer systems, paper copies should be forwarded to DFS so the data can be entered into the system here by hand.

Training

If a department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact me to set up an MFIRS v5 class. It is a 4-hour MFA class and now comes with 4 OEMS credits. Enrollment must be open to other departments.

Upcoming MFIRS Classes

Thursday, 10/26/06 @ MFA in Stow, MA from 09:00 – 13:00. Course # 200000613 Session A.

Wednesday, 11/8/06 @ Ashby F.D. in Ashby, MA from 18:30 – 21:30. Course # 200000613 Session B. Please use standard MFA registration forms and procedures.

Fatal or Large Loss Fires

If you have a fire or explosion with a **fatality** or **large loss (>\$1,000,000)**, please forward a paper copy of the MFIRS report with a completed Re-

marks section to Derryl Dion within 2 business days. The report should include the Basic, Fire, Civilian Fire & or Fire Service Casualty Module(s), and Structure Fire Module (needed for all structure fires). This most likely will be a preliminary report and you can file the complete report at a later date unless otherwise noted. Every effort should be taken to make sure that these reports are as complete as they can be given all of the information available at the end of your investigation.

If one of the state troopers from OSFM's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) was involved with the investigation, please contact them periodically to see what they are reporting as their conclusions in their report. FIU reports are separate from your MFIRS reports, and using the team concept, both reports should reflect the same conclusions.

Electronic Reporting

The email address to send your electronic MFIRS reports to is: MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us. One or two days after your first submission via email please call Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 to confirm its receipt. If you are reporting electronically please send us your reports on a monthly basis during the first two weeks of the following month.

Assistance

Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. ♦

11. Guaranteed loans or credit, on easy terms

Some email messages offer home-equity loans that don't require equity in your home, as well as solicitations for guaranteed, unsecured credit cards, regardless of your credit history. Usually, these are said to be offered by offshore banks. Sometimes they are combined with pyramid schemes, which offer you an opportunity to make money by attracting new participants to the scheme.

The scams: The home equity loans turn out to be useless lists of lenders who will turn you down if you don't meet their qualifications. The promised credit cards never come through, and the pyramid money-making schemes always collapse.

12. Credit repair

Credit repair scams offer to erase accurate negative information from your credit file so you can qualify for a credit card, auto loan, home mortgage, or a job.

The scam: The scam artists who promote these services can't deliver. Only time, a deliberate effort, and a personal debt repayment plan will improve your credit. The companies that advertise credit repair services appeal to consumers with poor credit histories. Not only can't they provide you with a clean credit record, but they also may be encouraging you to violate federal law. If you follow their advice by lying on a loan or credit application, misrepresenting your social security number, or getting an employer identification number from the Internal Revenue Service under

false pretenses, you will be committing fraud.

13. Vacation prize promotions

Electronic certificates congratulating you on "winning" a fabulous vacation for a very attractive price are among the scams arriving in your email. Some say you have been "specially selected" for this opportunity.

The scam: Most unsolicited commercial email goes to thousands or millions of recipients at a time. Often, the cruise ship you're booked on may look more like a tugboat. The hotel accommodations likely are shabby, and you may be required to pay more for an upgrade. Scheduling the vacation at the time you want it also may require an additional fee. ♦

The Proof is in the MFIRS

Retired California State Fire Marshal Ron Coleman published an article in the February 2006 issue of Fire Chief Magazine entitled, "Fire Service Improvement Tied to Rules of Evidence". To read the entire article yourself, go to www.firechief.com/mag/ firefighting_fireservice_improveent/index.html. Asking the question "can you prove it?" he cites the myriad of circumstances where fire officials are asked to prove or back up their assertions or requests for public investment - fire stations, staffing, hydrant systems, residential sprinklers, public education, carbon monoxide alarms, and code enforcement. He draws parallels between the quality of evidence that would stand up in court to "make a case" compared with the quality of 'evidence' or 'records' (read analysis of fire incident data) that the fire service usually trots out for city council budget hearings where they will be "hammered with questions about the facts."

Coleman recognizes that most firefighters hate report writing and record keeping yet he asserts it should be done with the same seriousness as a homicide detective's. "This isn't a game: It's competition for public trust and public investment."

Chief Coleman advocates not only for participating in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (which Massachusetts does) but that fire departments need to take these steps to turn data into usable information.

- Put someone in charge of quality control of the data (garbage in; garbage out).
- If a significant percentage of the data collected is "unknowns" the fire department earns little credibility.
- Prepare and look at the data in monthly and annual reports; use them to evaluate whether or not the agency is doing its job well.
- Use the data to manage the fire department, to measure the depart-

ment's performance and to evaluate public policy. (Is the average response time getting longer to a neighborhood due to increased traffic congestion from development? or because you spend more time on ambulance runs to an out of town hospital since the new assisted living facility was built? are you responding to more homes where the smoke alarms are working due to school-based fire education?)

- Turn your data into usable information that informs policy-makers; create a meaningful document that is more than a compilation of charts and graphs but includes report-writing skills that make the case for adequate fire protection as an integral part of the community's infrastructure.

He concludes with, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could collect enough evidence to prosecute a case for improved fire protection?" ♦

Licensing Exams

Licenses

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses

or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm. ♦

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

2006 Exam Schedule

Examination	Deadline Date	Examination Date	Location
Fireworks	August 7 (Monday)	August 16 (Wednesday)	Classroom 109
Special Effects	November 6 (Monday)	November 16 (Thursday)	
Blasting			
Blasting R&D			
Fire Extinguishers	July 17 (Monday) October 9 (Monday)	July 26 (Wednesday) October 19 (Thursday)	DFS Stow Auditorium

Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other

actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of

the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Name	Company	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
Blasting Certificate of Competency				
Robert F. Jaksina		Suspension & Re-test	2 year susp. w/ 1 year to serve; Re-test req.	04/05/07
William H. Burt Jr.		Suspension & Re-test	6 month susp. w/ 120 days to serve; Re-test req.	10/26/06
Richard B. Stone		Suspension & Re-test	30 day susp. Re-test req	5/18/07
Explosives Users Certificate				
Fletcher Granite Co.		Suspension	90 day suspension	6/15/06